

B-2996 - B-3001

1835-1837/1870's

719-737 S. Hanover St. (East side)

Baltimore, Md.

Private access

The east side of the 700 block of S. Hanover St. is improved by a row of 2 1/2 story brick houses built for a working class market in 1835-1837 by William G. Read and his wife Sophia Howard Read on property allotted to her in the division of the real estate of her father John Eager Howard. The houses are two bays wide and two rooms deep, with dormer windows, and are typical of the type of late versions of Federal-style houses built in the area in the late 1830's and early 1840's. 721, 725-727, and 729-733 S. Hanover St. all remain in close to their original condition, although the facade of the latter group has been stuccoed. 719 and 723 S. Hanover St. were enlarged and remodeled after the Civil War and now are three stories in height with shed roofs and bracketed cornices. The large three story high, six bay wide brick corner building at 735-737 S. Hanover St. with its Italianate-style bracketed cornice and hooded lintels, represents either a replacement or enlargement of the original 2 1/2 story houses on the site and was built in the 1870's to serve the same combined commercial/residential function that it does today.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

725-727 S. Hanover St.

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☐ OCCUPIED  
☒ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☒ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☒ OTHER: restoration  
contemplated

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Records Office Room 601

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This pair of 2 1/2 story brick gable roofed houses with dormer windows is a survivor of the original row of such structures that was built on this site in the late 1830's.

The two houses are 2 1/2 stories high, about 15' wide, and run back on their lots about 45', with the latter 15' comprising a two story kitchen wing only 9' wide. They are constructed in Flemish bond, with low-pitched gable roofs and a single dormer apiece. The roof of 725 is tarpaper, but the roof of 727 is the original seamed tin with wooden snow guard. The dormer windows show a broken pediment design. That of 725 still has its original 6/6 sash; the sash of 727 is missing. The simple rectangular chimneys rise at the south side of each house. An additional chimney rises from the east end wall of the kitchen wing. There is a simple brick cornice running continuously across the facade of both structures.

The window openings of both the first and second floors have flat wooden lintels and sills. No original sash remains and the openings are either empty or boarded. Both doorways have flat wooden lintels, surmounting single light transoms. 725 S. Hanover St. has a modern flush door; 727 has a late Victorian style door with a pedimental design of punched decoration set over two lower panels. Both houses are set on fairly high basements, with square coal openings to the right of the stoop. At present no steps remain.

The plan of 725 S. Hanover St. is quite typical of a 2 1/2 story house of this size. There is a front and back room of approximately equal dimensions (about 13' x 13') on each floor, with a single dormered room on the third floor, with dormer windows facing both front and back. The two story kitchen wing runs back 15', but is not as wide as the main body of the house. Windows along its inside wall provide additional interior light for the house. Taken together, the two kitchen wings of 725 and 727 S. Hanover form a kind of interior courtyard for the use of the two houses. Originally there was a small fireplace in each of the front and back rooms of the first and second floors of the two houses, and a large cooking fireplace on the end wall of the kitchen wing. The sharply winding stairs are located in the back room, just beyond the partition wall separating the front and back rooms and between that wall and the fireplace in the back room. On the opposite side of the fireplace in the back room there are built-in shelves, thus indicating that this room was planned to be used as a dining/kitchen area. As is often the case with houses of this design, there are also built-in shelves flanking the fireplace in the same position in the room directly above, i.e. the second floor back room. The ceilings of the first floor are 8 1/2' in height; those of the second floor are 8' in height. The third floor room beneath the roof is 13' wide by 18' deep, with a 6' high ceiling at its center, sloping sharply down to floor level. On the second floor, the space over the kitchen wing is divided into two rooms, both with sloping ceilings running from 8' in height along the outside wall to 6' in height along the inside. The larger room, opening off the back bedroom, is 9' deep; the room to the rear is 6' deep and apparently in recent times served as the bathroom.

An interesting feature of the interior detailing is the extreme depth of the first floor front windows which extend to within a foot of the floor level.

Both windows and doors are framed by a  
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1836-1840

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Developed by Wm. G. Read

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

These two houses are significant as being part of a group of 2 1/2 story houses with dormer windows built in the late 1830's by Wm. G. Read, the son-in-law of John Eager Howard, on vacant land allotted to Read's wife, Sophia, in the division of the real estate of her father. The houses are interesting as examples of the late use of the Federal style. The only evidence of their later date being the longer, narrower proportions of the first floor windows, and interior details such as beaded door and window enframements.

The houses were designed to provide inexpensive housing for the growing number of workers moving into the Federal Hill area to work in waterfront-related jobs. The floor plan follows the pattern established for earlier working class housing in the area, with its small front and back rooms on each floor and enclosed, tightly winding stairs set between the two rooms.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

M.E. Hayward / Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust / Struever Bros. &amp; Eccles

DATE

2/79

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1745 Circle Rd.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ruxton

STATE

Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

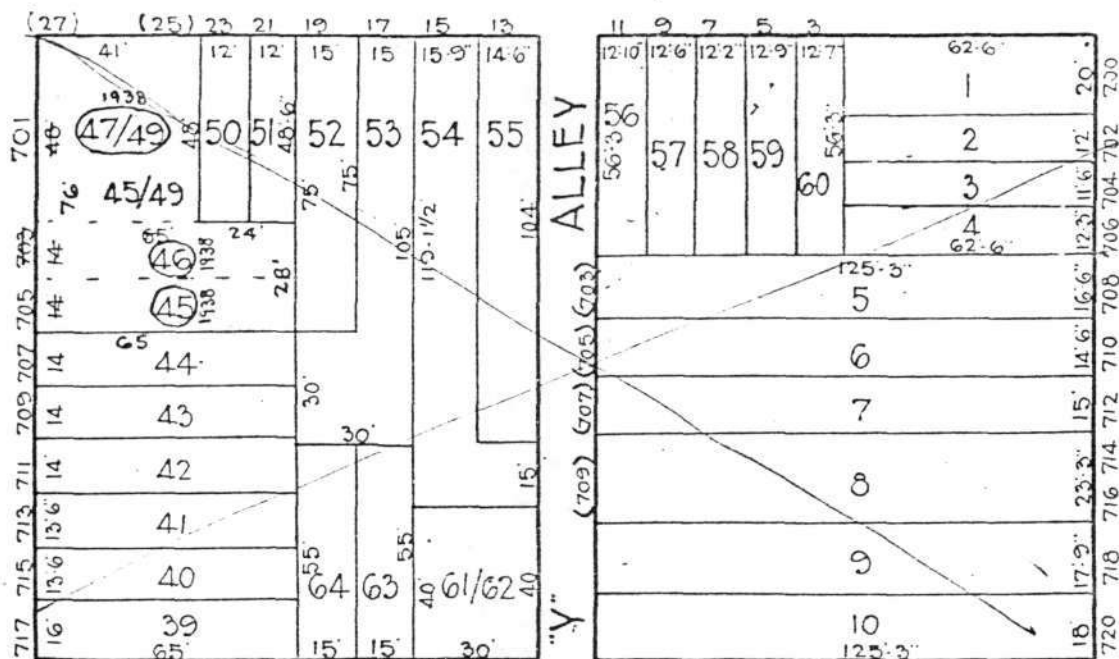
725-727 S. Hanover St.

Description, cont.

Both windows and doors are framed by a wide, reeded molding, with plain corner blocks decorated with round medallions. This Greek Revival-inspired decorative detail accurately reflects the late date of the houses, whose exterior form and basic plan type survive from an earlier era.

ST.

ST.

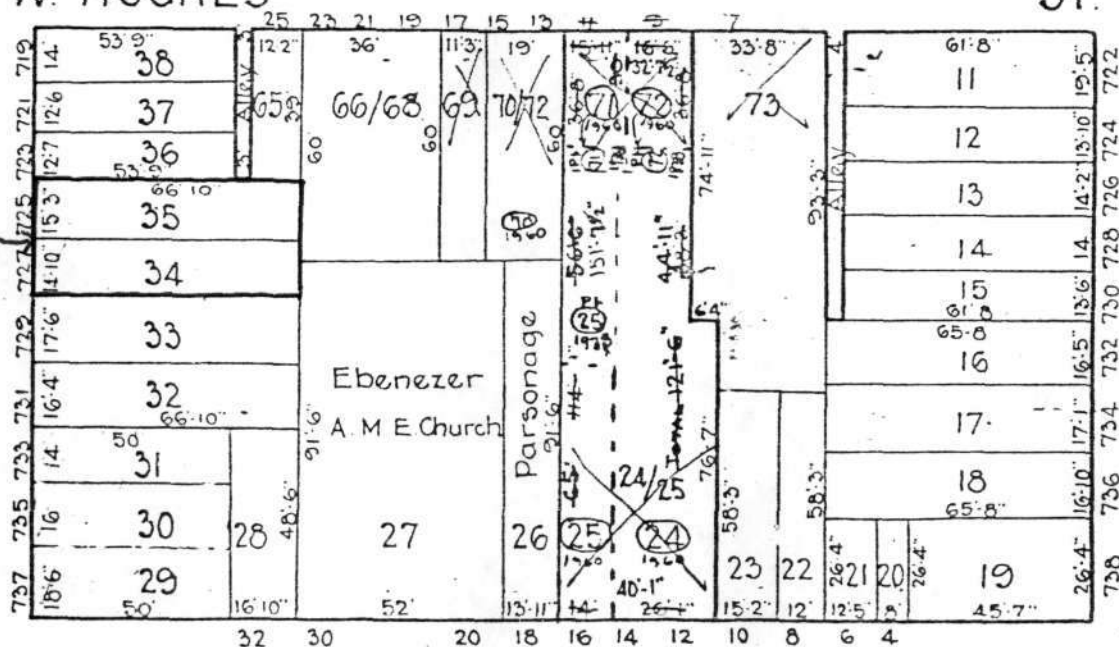


ST.

W. HUGHES

ST.

B-2949  
S. HANOVER



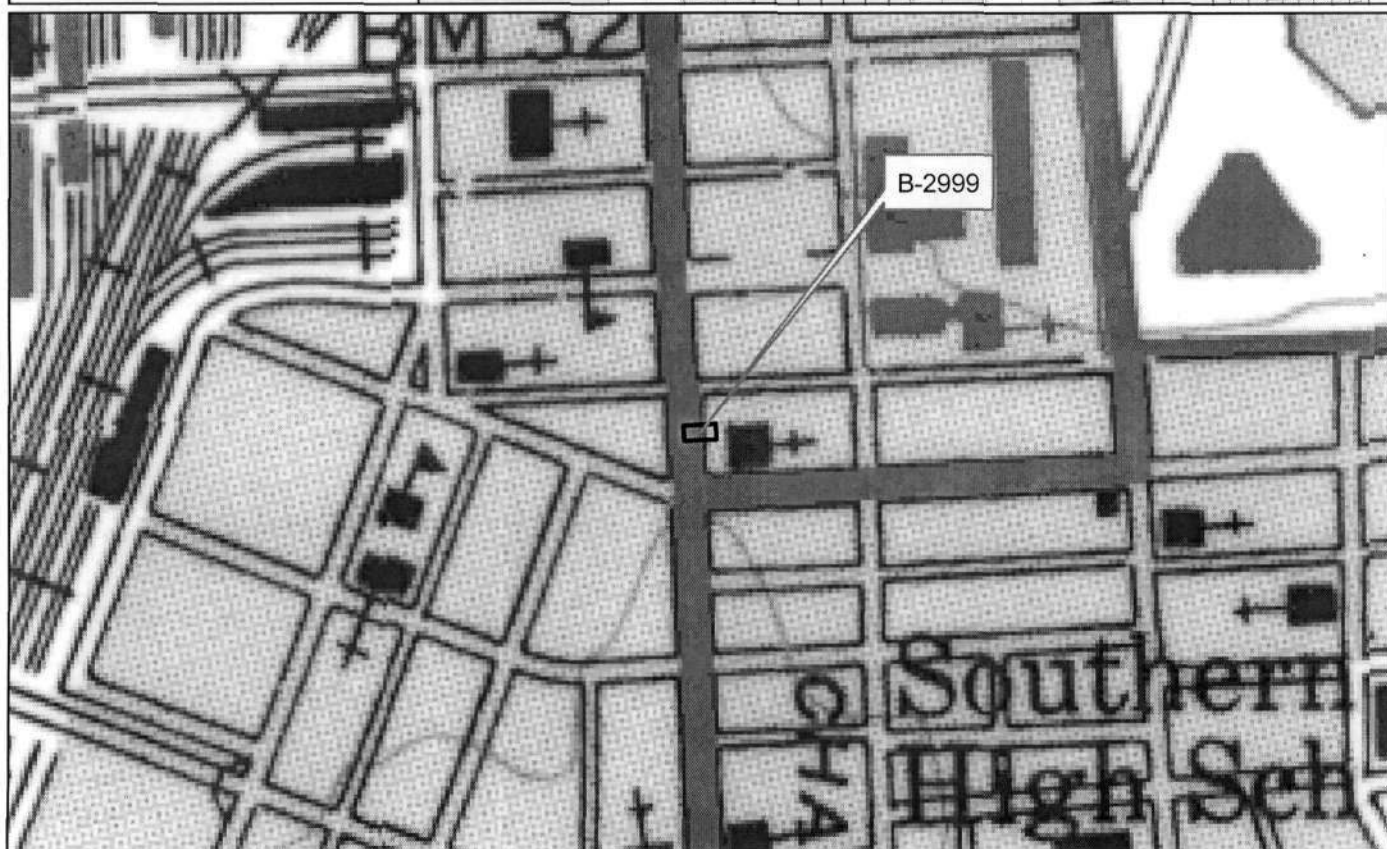
S. CHARLES

W. MONTGOMERY

ST



B-2999  
725-727 S. Hanover Street  
Block 0895 Lots 035-034  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.







B-2999

725-727 S. Hanover St.

M.E.H.

4/79

West elevation